

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Groups and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani

DATE: April 8, 1998

RE: The Coming Year

The Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project has less than one year to live. Federal funding for the project expires in March of 1999. Fortunately, we have been able to fill the two grant- funded positions that had been vacant, and we are ready to begin a second round of performance indicator production.

Over the next few months, we will be sharing updated performance indicators in the area of **Access to Care**. We will be presenting the indicators in graphic and tabular format as in the past, but we will not be preparing the detailed narrative that accompanied our earlier reports. Instead of us (project staff) telling you (our advisors) what we see in the data, we would like you to tell us what you see and how you interpret the data. We will compile your comments and share them with the group. After the Access series is completed, a set of indicators that relate to **Practice Patterns** will be distributed, followed by a set of **Treatment Outcome** indicators. The selection of indicators will be based on our experience and your recommendations during the first year of the project. We anticipate one meeting after each series to draft recommendations to the commissioner. One last meeting early in 1999 will be devoted to finalizing the recommendations of the advisory group to the commissioner.

We have established an e-mail account for this project (pip@dmh.state.vt.us) in order to encourage immediate feedback. If you have e-mail, please send us your comments at any time. Those of you who have e-mail may also receive our performance indicators electronically (you will need Microsoft Excel to read the files). If you would like to try this out, please send an e-mail to pip@dmh.state.vt.us requesting electronic delivery.

In order to provide a broader comparative perspective from which to interpret the new performance indicators, members of both the Children's and the Adult Mental Health advisory groups (and other interested parties) will be receiving all of the performance measures we produce during the next phase of the project. (In the past, indicators were only distributed within the adult or the children's world.)

If you would like to be dropped from this mailing list, please call Pam Mack at 802-241-2639 or send us an e-mail. If you would like to speak to me, I'm at 802-241-2638.